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Special Situation Report:

Williams Olefins Plant Explosion, Geismar, Ascension Parish, LA

US Environmental Protection Agency

Report as of 2000 hours, 6/13/13

Situation Overview:

- Unconfirmed initial reports indicate that an explosion occurred at approximately 0830 hrs at the Williams Olefins chemical plant in Geismar, LA, which may have been caused by an explosion in a boiler room.
- Reportedly, the explosion caused fires and additional explosions at the facility.
- According to the RMP report, the chemicals of concern with reportable quantities stored at the facility include: chlorine (12,000 lbs); 1,3- butadiene (2,400,000 lbs); ethane (80,000 lbs); propane (200,000 lbs); propylene (750,000 lbs); ethylene (130,000 lbs); however, there is no confirmation of chemicals actually involved in the fire at this time.
- Reports indicate that over 300 workers were evacuated from the site, at least 49 people were evacuated by ambulance, there is 1 confirmed fatality and 1 person missing (presumed dead).
- The two-mile precautionary shelter-in-place order originally issued to local residents has been reduced.
- Most of the fire has been extinguished; there is only fire associated with flaring.

State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:

- Local fire and hazmat teams, Louisiana State Police, and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) are on-scene.
- LDEQ air monitoring results along Hwy 30 between Hwy 3115 and Hwy 73 indicate no levels of contaminants above background concentrations (this is the prevalent direction of the plume).

- The USCG deployed a federal OSC Representative from Sector New Orleans Marine Safety Unit.
- The NOC continues to reach out to USCG, TSA, FEMA, NICC, EPA and Louisiana Fusion Center. An Interagency Modeling and Atmospheric Assessment Center plume model was produced.

EPA Actions:

- The R6 REOC is in contact with LDEQ will continue to coordinate with them.
- R6 START contractors and an R6 OSC are on scene and will conduct air monitoring throughout the night.
- LDEQ requested EPA assistance for air monitoring during the afterhours period.
- In addition, R6 is reviewing the Facility RMP report and conducting a more extensive review of facility's compliance history. (See attachment)

Media Interest: High

The HQ EOC will continue to coordinate with the R6 REOC and provide additional updates as appropriate.

Explosion Chemical Plant Geismar, LA Critical Infrastructure



- ★ Explosion Site
- Infrastructure Assets
- Chemical and Hazardous Materials Industry
- Manufacturing

Maps shows explosion site at a chemical plant near Geismar, approximately 23 miles south of Baton Rouge along the Mississippi River

